



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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April 17, 2014  
FB14-026

## **NOAA Fisheries Has Specified New, Temporary Catch Limits for Blueline Tilefish in the South Atlantic through Emergency Action**

NOAA Fisheries has specified new, temporary catch limits for blueline tilefish in the South Atlantic through emergency action. Effective on April 17, 2014, the catch limits are 112,207 and 111,893 pounds whole weight for the commercial and recreational sectors, respectively. NOAA Fisheries will also prohibit harvest of the commercial and recreational sectors, in-season, if the sectors' catch limits are projected to be met.

Prior to this temporary rule, blueline tilefish catch limits were included in a Deep-Water Complex. The Deep-Water Complex consisted of blueline tilefish, yellowedge grouper, silk snapper, misty grouper, queen snapper, sand tilefish, black snapper, and blackfin snapper. However, NOAA Fisheries has temporarily removed blueline tilefish from the Deep-Water Complex. NOAA Fisheries has also temporarily changed the catch limits for the Deep-Water Complex to 60,371 and 19,313 pounds whole weight for the commercial and recreational sectors, respectively, to reflect the current catch limits for the Deep-Water Complex with the blueline tilefish portion removed.

The temporary measures will be in place for 180 days (through October 14, 2014) and may be extended for 186 additional days. NOAA Fisheries will notify the public if the temporary measures are extended.

### **Need for Action**

A stock assessment completed in October 2013 determined that the blueline tilefish population in the South Atlantic is experiencing overfishing (fishing pressure too high) and is overfished (population too low). The South Atlantic

Fishery Management Council (Council) and NOAA Fisheries are working on regulations to end overfishing and rebuild the population. While those regulations are being developed, the Council requested NOAA Fisheries take emergency action to reduce fishing pressure of blueline tilefish.

### **How to Submit Comments**

Comments on the temporary rule through emergency action must be received on or before May 19, 2014. You may submit comments either electronically or through mail. Comments received through other means may not be considered.

*Electronic Submissions:* Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal.

- Go to:  
[www.regulations.gov/#!/docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2014-0027](http://www.regulations.gov/#!/docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2014-0027)
- Click on "Comment Now!" Complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- Attachments to electronic comments (up to 10 MB) will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

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All comments will be part of the public record and posted for public viewing to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter, may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. Anonymous comments will be accepted.

## **Additional Information**

More information, including Frequently Asked Questions, may be found online at:

[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/satl/sg/2014/acl\\_er/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/satl/sg/2014/acl_er/index.html)

This bulletin serves as a Small Entity Compliance Guide, complying with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.